

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
4/29/13 – 5/12/13**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Ryan Aho observed a young child standing on a booster seat hanging out the rear window of a passenger vehicle. Upon stopping the vehicle it was also discovered that the operator of the vehicle and another young child were not wearing safety belts. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Miller contacted an angler that had a permanent shanty with no name or address and had failed to remove his fishing shanty prior to March 31st. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery finished an otter investigation involving three individuals. A total of seven illegal otter were discovered to have been harvested dating back to 2011. The otters were sealed and warrants sought for the responsible parties.

While conducting a late night patrol in Iron County, CO Dave Painter was nearly run off the road by a vehicle leaving a remote camp. When the CO stopped the vehicle he found four juveniles in possession of alcohol. Follow up at the nearby camp resulted in 16 juveniles in possession of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken with the assistance of local deputies.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Kevin Postma responded to two separate complaints of illegal burning in which the fire had escaped. Tickets were issued to the responsible parties. A third investigation is underway in which a fire was intentionally set on state lands near Sault Ste. Marie.

A local resident decided to go "mudding" on the exposed bottomlands of Lake Michigan. During the fun, the driver got the truck stuck. CO John Wenzel came upon him soon after. A ticket was issued for operation in a prohibited area.

CO Mike Evink assisted local authorities with the apprehension of a 13 year old and a 15 year old riding double on an ORV. They two had attempted unsuccessfully to flee through a cemetery.

COs Mike Evink and John Wenzel checked over 30 boats targeting perch in Garden Bay. A couple of tickets were issued for unregistered vessels. One subject on a personal watercraft (PWC) was also issued a ticket for no personal flotation device (PFD).

CO John Wenzel issued a ticket to a subject for allowing a fire to escape. The subject's grass fire escaped and not only burned down his storage shed and contents, but his neighbor's shed and contents as well.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Mark DePew observed two anglers at the Otsego Lake pike marsh fishing in the closed area and attempting to snag fish. CO DePew watched the subjects for a while and when he contacted them, discovered one of them also did not have a fishing license. They were ticketed for their violations.

CO Mark DePew was patrolling the Pigeon River Forest (PRC) when he observed two ORVs riding in a closed area. When CO DePew attempted to stop the operators they tried to flee but were eventually stopped. Both subjects admitted to running from the CO and are being charged with riding in a closed area and fleeing the officer.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of a dead animal in a trap, when he looked at the trap it was tagged and he contacted the owner of the trap. The trap belonged to 2 juveniles who had lost a trap during season; when CO Ross contacted the youth he discovered they had set lines out for trout and were attempting to dam the river they lived on to improve the fishing. CO Ross educated the youth on the laws they violated and provided them with the appropriate guides and explained how to better secure their traps to prevent losing them in the future.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of individuals cutting cedar trees on state land. When the CO found the subjects on state land they had cut 45 live and dead cedar trees that were approximately 30 feet long. CO Ross contacted them as they were securing the trees to the roof of their van and issued tickets for violations of their fuelwood permit. They also had their chainsaws seized.

CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of an individual taking an overlimit of walleye in Alpena County. When he contacted the angler at his residence he was in possession of nine walleye and largemouth bass. The fish were seized and the subject was ticketed.

Sgt. Joe Molnar responded to a wildfire where the landowner believed the fire was started by his ORV. The CO asked to see the ORV and found a loaded, sawed off shotgun in a gun rack on the machine. The gun was secured and the owner was taken into custody for possession of a short barrel shotgun and also ticketed for burning piles of leaves when prohibited.

CO Steve Speigl was the first to respond to a vehicle accident in Antrim County where a driver left the roadway, travelled approximately 100 yards through a deep ditch then was sent airborne at the next crossroad, crashing into boulders and a tree. The minivan carried enough speed that it was airborne for over 30 feet before coming to a stop.

Injuries were minor since the van had full curtain airbags. The driver was treated and released.

CO Eric Bottorff received a complaint of campsite in the PRC state forest with trash strewn about and live trees cut down. CO Bottorff contacted the individuals and enforcement action was taken, as well as the site cleaned up.

CO Andrea Erratt reports a subject was convicted of shooting deer in February and was sentenced to pay a total of \$1,750 in fines, costs and reimbursement, as well as having his hunting licenses revoked for three years.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a wildfire where a subject lit garbage on fire in a barrel and then left the area. When he returned he found his shed and the adjacent field on fire. Luckily, firefighters were able to extinguish the fire prior to it reaching the neighbor's house. A ticket was issued for failing to prevent the spread of fire.

COs Carl VanderWall, Andrea Erratt and Steve Spiegl patrolled an area on state land that has received extensive damage from ORVs, especially large "mudder" trucks. Upon arrival to the area, they observed approximately 50 trucks covered with mud already on the road attempting to leave. However, there was one straggler whose truck was stuck in a remote wetland area. The owner/operator was contacted and ticketed for operating a motor vehicle in a wetland, third offense. The truck was impounded and consideration is being given to permanent forfeiture of the vehicle.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Steve Converse investigated and ticketed a subject who was burning two sofas, several TVs and some VCRs in an attempt to recover metal from these items to sell at the local scrap metal yard.

While off duty, COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski were fishing from a boat on Portage Lake when they observed another boat with two subjects approaching other boats on the lake and passing them fish. Eventually this boat approached their anchored boat and one of the subjects asked them if they wanted some extra fish they had caught. The subject went on to say that they didn't want to take the extra fish back to the boat launch. CO Converse asked them to pull alongside and show their fish. The subjects showed a large quantity of yellow perch, at which time both COs identified themselves, with CO Converse boarding the boat to count their perch. The subjects were over their limit of perch and were issued tickets later that day when CO Converse checked into service.

CO Carla Soper was called to a complaint of a dam being constructed on a Manistee County lake. When CO Soper arrived, several subjects were constructing an elaborate dam to control their lake level. Several agencies, including the DNR, worked together to remove the dam that was being constructed without a permit. An investigative report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Angela Greenway received a complaint of several unattended fishing lines on the Pine River. With the detailed information provided by the complainant, CO Greenway was able to locate the unattended fishing rods and the responsible subjects. Tickets were issued to two subjects that were camping in the area.

CO Angela Greenway reported that an individual who used his motor vehicle to run over several wild turkeys pled guilty to careless driving and was ordered to pay \$1,000 restitution to the State of Michigan for the intentional killing of the turkeys.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Angela Greenway were checking anglers in the flies only section of the Pere Marquette River and located a drift boat that was getting ready to launch with no life jackets. The boat owner happily agreed to delay his fishing trip and return to the cabin to retrieve the appropriate number of PFDs to be safe and avoid a ticket.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells were returning from training and overheard Newaygo Central Dispatch sending firefighters to a brush fire. The COs responded and assisted in containing and extinguishing the fire. The responsible party was issued a ticket for allowing a fire to escape.

CO Brian Lebel was checking shore anglers along the Little Muskegon River when he came across an individual who continued to lie about his age and name, and stated that he had purchased fishing license. After a short interview, CO Lebel was able to determine that the subject was an adult and had not purchased a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller assisted with the investigation into an illegal burn that was responsible for destroying a barn. CO Mueller determined that the property owner was burning brush the day prior to the damaging fire and that the embers had smoldered in the pile until strong winds re-ignited the fire that eventually destroyed his barn. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen received a complaint regarding a subject who had been snagging fish the previous night. CO Huspen patrolled the area and conducted surveillance the following evening and observed the subject snagging numerous fish. The subject cut his line when approached by CO Huspen. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a complaint of a hunter nearly being shot by subjects who were attempting to shoot turkeys from their vehicle. The caller was hunting in the woods when he heard a shot and saw a group of nearby turkeys begin to scatter. The hunter, who was nearly struck by the shot, noticed two subjects in a truck and was able to provide a good description, which enabled the CO to track down the vehicle and suspects at a different location. After interviews, both subjects admitted to their illegal activities and enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Lockwood and Jason McCullough were able to track down the suspect in a turkey hunting trespass complaint the day after it occurred. When the suspect picked up the bird from the property where he was trespassing, he dropped his eyeglasses. The next day, COs located the suspect vehicle at a nearby cabin. The individual vigorously denied all allegations until the COs pulled out his eyeglasses and a turkey feather. Faced with the evidence, the subject stopped all denial and admitted to his actions. He had a prior history of trespassing and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jonathan Warner observed several anglers fishing at the Van Ettan Dam in Iosco County. As two of the anglers started to leave, CO Warner approached them to check for fishing licenses. Both subjects denied any fishing activity. When CO Warner was able to describe some of their recent actions, including the number of fish they had caught, both changed their stories and admitted to fishing without licenses.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of snaggers below the dam on Wixom Lake. Upon arrival, he observed one of the subjects throwing empty tin cans into the water. After contacting the group, one of the subjects admitted that he had been using canned corn to bait the fish and decided to throw the can in the water instead of taking it with him. CO Lockwood issued a litter ticket to the subject and discussed proper disposal techniques.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Ken Lowell was on patrol in the Stanton State Game Area (SGA) and located a vehicle illegally parked on state land. The vehicle had gun cases and other hunting items in the cab. After a long walk, the CO located the owner of the vehicle. The subject was turkey hunting and it was discovered that he was hunting in the wrong area for the tag he possessed. After checking old licenses in the system it was also discovered that the hunter buys the same tag every year and hunts the same area. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell stopped a vehicle and found that the driver was in possession of a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. It was the last day of the man's turkey hunt and he was out looking for a turkey on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn R. Strawn observed two people operating ORVs on the roadway. Neither of the operators were wearing helmets. After stopping the operators, the CO discovered several additional violations of the ORV Safety Act. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a call of a lady who had stepped into a woodchuck hole and fell in the Maple River SGA. The caller advised that she thought she had broken her shoulder. The CO unlocked the gate and drove an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) back to the injured lady. The CO assisted the EMT with first aid and then transported her out to the awaiting ambulance.

While patrolling the Chippewa River in Mt. Pleasant, CO Jeremy Payne observed three tubers enter the water with a 12 pack of Bud Light bottles, and no means to dispose of the bottles. The CO watched the tubers float the river to Mill Pond Park where they exited the river at a sand bar and continued to drink at this location. The CO noticed that there were numerous beer bottles all over the sand bar at this time. Traffic in this area by other park users was busy on this day. Within 20 minutes one of the tubers exposed himself twice and urinated while facing a busy park path. When the subjects were done drinking they walked to the busy park path where they came in contact with CO Payne. Enforcement action was taken in response to the subjects conduct.

While patrolling Deerfield Park in Isabella County, CO Jeremy Payne watched a group of anglers near the swimming area. When the CO attempted to check the license of one of the anglers he indicated that he was not fishing and was only watching his friends. The CO explained to him that he was watching him fish for a period of time. The angler stated, "Well I guess my lie isn't going to work then." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of three anglers keeping bass at Lake of the Hills in Isabella County. Through interviewing witnesses, the CO was able to develop a suspect. The CO then contacted the suspect who indicated that he did not keep any bass. The CO gained permission to search the suspect's house. By the time they arrived at the suspect's residence, he started to ask questions about private lakes and rules associated with them. The CO explained to him the difference between public and private lakes and that Lake of the Hills is still considered a public waterway. The CO was then able to obtain a confession and seized seven out of season bass. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly, local deputies, and other local officers responded to the Shiawassee River SGA reference two off-road motorcycles that were involved in an accident. The complainant was one of the operators who was not injured. He advised his friend was severely injured, could not move and they were deep in the Game Area. The caller advised they were near duck blind # 29. The officers responded to the scene and had Flight Care land and then transport the injured subject. Both dirt bikes were operating illegally in the SGA. They were traveling at high speeds down a two-track that was on the top of a high dike. What they did not know was that they were approaching a 30 foot area where the dike had been washed away during the flooding. The uninjured caller was out in front, saw that the two-track had been washed away, and was able to apply some brakes before he crashed. The second operator was not so lucky. The second operator's visibility was impaired by all of the dust from the first rider and never saw the 30 foot long washout. He flew over the washout and crashed into the cliff on the other side and was severely injured. The Sgt. issued a ticket to the uninjured rider for illegally operating in the SGA.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of turkey hunting out of season, recreational trespass, and safety zone violations. After investigating, the trespass was on the neighbor's property (not the complainant's), the complainant thought the safety zone should be from his property line rather than from his house, and he did not think there were any turkey seasons open prior to May 10th. He was wrong on all three thoughts.

CO Jason A. Smith was in the area when a local police officer asked for assistance with a car full of unruly subjects. Back-up was provided, and one of the subjects was lodged for possession of drugs.

CO Joshua Wright was checking anglers on the Quanicassee River when he came upon an angler who had a mix of fish in his bucket. When checking the fish CO Wright found a smallmouth bass. The CO asked the angler what the season was for bass and he said he did not know. He also stated that he has been fishing for over fifteen years. The angler was given a ticket and a fishing guide to read.

COs Josh Wright and Seth Rhodea conducted a marine patrol on Lake Huron. Compliance with fishing and marine regulations was high; only one boat was found with several violations. The boat had come from Canada to fish Michigan waters during a fishing tournament and one angler did not have a Michigan fishing license. Several marine safety violations were also discovered on the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea concluded an investigation involving a subject who had illegally started building a deer hunting ranch that ultimately led to the deaths of numerous free ranging whitetail deer. CO Rhodea obtained warrants for the subject for failing to license his facility, killing free ranging deer and several charges for taking deer out of season.

While working a late night fishing patrol, CO Robert Hobkirk was at the mouth of Rock Falls Creek watching a group of anglers. While observing the group, one of the subjects threw a beer bottle and broke it along the shoreline. The angler was ticketed for littering.

COs Robert Hobkirk and Thomas Brown were watching two anglers spear suckers in the Village of Forrestville. The anglers were throwing the fish onto the bank. After about one hour, the two subjects began to leave the area. When contacted by the COs the two juveniles agreed to pick up the fish prior to heading home.

While checking bass anglers in Grindstone, CO Robert Hobkirk observed a woman holding a cloth on a young boy's head and some blood on the boy's hands. CO Hobkirk provided first aid supplies to the mother to tend to a wound her son had received. Apparently two boys were fishing and one boy accidentally hit the other with a fishing pole causing the injury.

CO Robert Hobkirk assisted local deputies in locating a subject who had been speaking with a young female inappropriately in the Oak Beach area. CO Hobkirk was able to locate the subject and hold him for the sheriff's deputy. The man's excuse was that he was an ordained minister and was only trying to give the young female a \$600 scholarship to college. The man was turned over to the sheriff's department.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Chris Simpson responded to a turkey hunting complaint in Muskegon County of a subject who may have taken two turkeys. CO Simpson was able to identify a suspect

by checking with area landowners and track down a suspect across the county. When he arrived at the subject's home, he was met at the door by a camouflage-clad resident with blood on his hands. After a short interview, CO Simpson was led to a turkey in the back yard that was still untagged two hours after harvest. The bird was mostly processed and the hunter advised he still intended to tag the bird but had simply forgotten to do so. The original complaint of a possible overlimit appears to be explained when the hunter was seen carrying eight decoys from his hunting location. The hunter was ticketed for failing to validate and tag his turkey.

CO Chris Simpson responded to a call of trespassing vehicles and anglers at the Muskegon Wastewater property. While responding to the scene, CO Simpson observed a muddy jeep matching the description of the suspect vehicle driving past him. Following the vehicle to a residence, Simpson arrived to question the occupants about the trespassing call and their fishing activity. CO Simpson questioned the subjects and LEIN checked each person and establish that one subject was wanted for a probation violation with an \$8500 bond. After placing the subject under arrest a second subject became much more agitated and uncooperative and appeared to be providing a false name. A sheriff's deputy arrived to assist at the scene and it was eventually established that the second subject had provided a false name and was also wanted on an outstanding warrant. Each subject was lodged and all admitted to trespassing and fishing without licenses.

COs B J Goulette and Greg Patten were on patrol when dispatch sent out a call of a four wheel ATV operating at a high rate of speed along a county road, throwing dust and gravel at a woman walking a small child in a stroller. Two townships away, at the same time, the COs witnessed a four wheel ATV do exactly the same thing, clearly unrelated to the dispatch call. Upon stopping the vehicle they found the adult female operator was carrying a 10 year old female and an adult male passenger on the machine. There were no helmets, no ORV license, and the machine was being operated on a county road. Enforcement action was taken and the riders returned home.

CO B J Goulette was observing anglers fishing a gravel pit when he attempted to check licenses. One angler had no fishing license or valid identification. CO Goulette established the angler was wanted on two outstanding warrants and was turned over to the MSP, the originating agency, after being ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO B J Goulette and Sgt. John Jurcich patrolled along the Black River to Lake Macatawa recently and found numerous violations. Three anglers were ticketed for fishing without valid licenses and three others were ticketed for trespassing after COs located two hiding in the brush along the river on private posted property and waiting to be picked up by a fellow angler. The location continues to remain a problem for the property owner as anglers leave trash and damage the property while targeting spawning fish.



CO Dave Rodgers responded to a 911 complaint of a possible safety zone violation by a turkey hunter. When contact was made with the hunter in a portable blind, CO Rodgers found the hunter in violation of safety zone and hunting hours regulations. This hunter has also been contacted on four separate occasions for wildlife violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Rodgers was patrolling the Rouge River State Game Area (SGA) and found late night jeep drivers going over berms to enter closed areas to access a sand pit. Two drivers were ticketed for entering the closed area. He also ticketed three persons over the weekend for fishing without licenses.

CO Steve Orange was patrolling the Rouge River SGA when he encountered a suspicious situation involving two vehicles and intoxicated persons near an access site. When he returned a short time later to check on the situation, he was contacted by a subject stating the female subject with him had been assaulted by one of a group of four men and that they just fled the scene into a wooded area on state land. CO Orange requested back up from county and state officers and a MSP helicopter responded to the scene to assist with the ground search. The evening concluded with three persons accounted for, one arrested for operating while impaired, and the primary assault suspect identified but still at large.

CO Gary Raak observed a subject fishing for bass during the catch and release only season, near a culvert at a local inland lake. As the subject caught the bass his friend unhooked the fish and conveniently hid them in the weeds on the other side of the road. When the subjects decided to leave they retrieved the fish and attempted to hide them in a bucket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss had completed a nine month investigation of illegal charter boat operation by unlicensed charter boats from Indiana, fishing in Michigan waters without a Michigan charter boat license. Warrants were obtained for eight subjects for a total count of 28 violations. All have appeared and all subjects have been convicted for the illegal unlicensed operation in Michigan waters.

CO Chris Holmes conducted surveillance on local inland lakes for overlimits of panfish being taken in Kalamazoo County. In two days CO Holmes ticketed four individuals for possessing overlimits. One subject was ticketed by CO Holmes in 2012 for possessing bass during closed season on the same lake. Several other tickets for marine violations and fishing without licenses were also issued.

CO Chris Holmes overheard a local police agency broadcast of an ORV being operated in a careless manner on a roadway. CO Holmes responded to the area and waited for several minutes before observing the ORV being operated on the roadway. The operator had no helmet or ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a complaint of subjects keeping bass during the closed season on a local creek in the Allegan SGA. Surveillance was conducted at the location

and CO Mshar witnessed two subjects hide six largemouth bass in the woods near the creek. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar assisted local deputies in the search for a subject connected to a meth lab investigation who fled from officers. CO Mshar located the subject and turned him over to the deputies.

CO Mike Mshar observed two subjects fishing at night on a local inland lake who did not have any navigation lights on their boat. When contact was made it was determined they also did not have any life jackets or fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols reports on Friday, he was patrolling the Maple River SGA and parked his patrol truck on the road where a bridge had washed out during flooding. Several subjects were observed bow fishing in a ditch further down the road and CO Nickols went and checked them. As CO Nickols was returning to his truck, he observed a pickup truck pull up behind his patrol vehicle. When the driver realized he could not get around, he put the truck in reverse and took off at a high rate of speed. The Tonneau cover on the truck was unsecured and flew up and hit the cab of the truck, scaring the driver who swerved and put the truck in the ditch. CO Nickols ran back to his patrol vehicle and went and checked on the driver. The driver, age 17, was shaken up but not injured. A warning was given to the young driver for his careless operation; and one subject who was bow fishing was able to pull the truck out.

While on marine patrol on Lake Ovid, CO Rich Nickols observed two subjects fishing from a boat. CO Nickols contacted the two anglers and found the boat had an expired registration, the ownership had never been transferred, and only one PFD was on board. A ticket was issued.

CO Todd Thorn was operating his patrol boat on the Grand River in Lansing when he checked individuals who were fishing from shore. The anglers had licenses, and CO Thorn was about to leave the location when he found a stringer with a bass and three pike on it. Two of the pike were undersized. The pike were still alive and released into the river, but the bass was already dead. Enforcement action was taken for possessing a bass during the catch and immediate release season.

While patrolling southern Ingham County at night looking for turkey hunters coming out of the woods, CO Todd Thorn drove up on a vehicle in a ditch with a subject in the driver's seat. CO Thorn checked the driver and found that he was not hurt, but also found that the man did not have a driver's license and was believed to be intoxicated. Further investigation revealed the driver was a convicted felon. CO Thorn contacted the county for backup and was assisted by the Michigan State Police (MSP) and local police officers. The driver was arrested and taken to jail.

CO Brian Fish responded to a report of an armed robbery at a convenience store east of Albion. Officers set up a perimeter to try to keep the subject in the area while a K-9 unit responded. The subject was not located. This person is the same suspect from other robberies in the area.

CO Derek Miller contacted anglers around midnight one night and found a subject from out of state fishing without a license. He and his friends both stated they didn't think they would see conservation officers out in the middle of the night. A ticket was issued and bond taken.

While on their way to a complaint, COs Derek Miller and Jason Smith assisted local deputies with a possible barricaded gunman. The subject was talked out of the residence and taken into custody without incident.

CO Derek Miller received a call about a goose being shot by a homeowner in their back yard. COs Miller and Jason Smith responded to the complaint but were not able to make contact with the homeowners. They went back to the residence a few days later, and contacted one of the residents. The female subject stated that she did shoot a goose in her back yard because she was sick of having it back there. She then showed the COs the firearm that she used and, after a short interview, gave a full confession. A report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office for shooting a goose out of season.

CO Kyle Bader interviewed a subject who shot a five foot blue racer while turkey hunting. The hunter claimed to be in fear for his safety from the harmless snake and felt he had to shoot it. He also claimed not to know that it was illegal to kill reptiles with a firearm. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Kyle Bader observed two anglers fish from a canoe below Riley dam. One angler caught multiple large channel catfish. When the CO contacted the anglers, they weren't very eager to show off their nice catch of catfish because there was a smallmouth bass that was also on the stringer. One angler was ticketed for the closed season bass.

CO Daniel Prince responded to an ORV trespass complaint that was in progress. The property caretaker witnessed and then followed an ORV driving across a field. He then observed the rider get off the ORV and run into nearby woods. The complainant took the ORV key out of the machine and yelled into the woods that he was going to call the DNR and the subject better come out from hiding. The complainant then left with the ORV key to make his call. When he came back the trespasser and ORV were gone. CO Prince explained to the complainant how to safely handle a situation like this in the future by calling the DNR RAP line and not following or engaging the subject.

CO Dan Bigger investigated a decommissioned captive cervid facility where the owner was allowed to keep his fence intact to keep the wild deer out. The property owner and a friend were hunting deer inside the enclosure that was not to have any deer, and confessed to allowing the fence to be compromised and wild deer to enter. Once presented with the evidence that located deer in the facility, several bait piles, and a

walk through of the facility with the caretaker, a full confession was obtained. Three deer that had been shot inside the fence were located and evidence seized. The fence is now in compliance with the fence law regulation and the subjects have a court date.

CO Dan Bigger received a complaint of a subject who shot an overlimit of turkeys. CO Bigger found the property owner, who made statements that there are several subjects who hunt or trespass on the property. Investigation revealed that the shooter had used the landowner's ORV and returned it to the exact location after having a verbal conflict with the complainant, which led the CO to disbelieve that the subject would be a trespasser. Several days of continued investigation and interviews led to CO Bigger meeting the landowner, who provided CO Bigger with information on the subject who was hunting on the day in question. A check of the subject showed he had purchased a turkey license the same day that CO Bigger met with the landowner, which was six days after the turkey had been shot. When presented with this information, the landowner stated the subject would never be allowed to hunt the property again. The subject admitted to shooting one turkey and not having a valid license at the time. Upon shooting the turkey he tagged it with a 2012 license and when he found out he was being investigated, went out and bought a turkey license in attempt to make things better. Charges are being sought.

CO Dan Bigger worked with CO Brandon Kieft on a case where subjects were seen shooting at a Red Tail Hawk nest and the adult birds. After a lengthy investigation and contacting a local falconer, COs Bigger and Kieft met with local officers at the site of the violation. A tree climber was brought out to investigate the nest, which stood atop a 65 foot pine tree. The climber was able to take photos of one baby Red Tail in the nest. The photos were reviewed by CO Bigger and sent to master falconers to assist in identifying any clues of violations, including dead Red Tail parts in the nest. The falconers stated that a single baby is not common, and witnesses stated that after the shootings, the hawks they had been watching year after year had been reduced to only one. Interviews were conducted with the subjects and confessions were obtained in shooting at the nests and the birds in an attempt to kill them to prevent them from eating their ducks and chickens. Charges are being sought.

CO Shane Webster was responding to a complaint of an individual keeping bass at a popular fishing location. Upon arrival, a second complaint was called out over the radio to the same location for an individual who appeared to have fallen into the water and was struggling to get out. CO Webster arrived and found the elderly individual had gotten himself out of the water but stated he was having trouble breathing. CO Webster kept tabs on the subject while advanced medical personnel were summoned. After being thoroughly checked by medical personnel, CO Webster determined that he was the subject from the prior complaint. The man was in fact only keeping legal panfish.

CO Todd Thorn was called out on a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a turkey being shot after legal hunting hours. The subjects were contacted at their residence and a discussion with a father and his 17 year old daughter occurred. The investigation revealed that the 17 year old was out hunting for the first time with her dad with an

apprentice license and shot a bearded turkey about three minutes after legal hunting hours. She was also hunting about a mile and a half outside of the zone that her tag was for. CO Thorn instructed the hunters on laws and ethics regarding turkey hunting and issued verbal warnings.

## **DISTRICT 9**

COs Linda Scheidler and Todd Szyska were first on scene at a two car injury accident on M15 in the City of Davison. One driver had to be extricated while the other vehicle operator and her son were okay. Even though it was CO Scheidler's last day and she was minutes away from retirement, she directed traffic and assisted until the local agency was on scene.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a RAP complaint at Lake St. Clair Metropark of two subjects keeping bass out of season. CO Szyska responded and contacted two subjects on the fishing pier. The anglers were in possession of five smallmouth bass out of season. The smallmouth bass were all deceased and ranged in size from 15" to 18". When asked why they were keeping the bass the anglers stated that they were given to them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received an anonymous tip on a subject without a license who shot a turkey behind his residence. CO Lasher arrived at the home of the suspect and questioned the individual. The subject confessed to CO Lasher that he shot a turkey without a license, and turned over the illegally taken bird. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach contacted a subject fishing on the Black River. When asked for his fishing license the subject could not provide one. CO Kovach then asked him for his full name and date of birth, which the angler supplied. When CO Kovach received a return on the information from dispatch, it was discovered the angler had given false information (wrong date of birth). It was determined that the angler did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach contacted campers in the Port Huron SGA who were highly intoxicated. The campers had beer cans littering all over the campsite, the banks of the river and floating down the river. CO Ken Kovach addressed the littering issue with campers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint of a subject who possessed a "trunk bass" at Lake St. Clair Metropark. CO Kiel's patrol truck was up on a hoist getting new tires put on when the call came in. CO Kiel called a Metropark officer who was able to make contact with the suspect until he arrived on scene. An undersized, out of season largemouth bass was found in the trunk wrapped in a plastic bag in the spare tire area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint of baby ducks trapped in a storm sewer. The caller observed a hen Mallard circling the storm sewer grate. COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska responded to the complaint and located the Mallard hen circling over top of the grate. The sewer cover was removed and CO Kiel lowered himself down the sewer head first while CO Szyska held his feet. CO Kiel passed the 11 ducklings up to CO Szyska who collected them in a cooler. The ducklings were released to their mother.

CO Kris Kiel received a call from a sheriff's department detective who turned an illegal goose case over to him. The suspect shot a goose with a bow and arrow. The goose then flew and landed, with the arrow stuck in it, onto a baseball field of a Little League game in progress. A local deputy who was taking a witness statement was able to contact the suspect coming out of the woods. The suspect stated that he may have shot the goose by accident while target practicing. He was lodged overnight and his bow and arrows were seized. Warrants will be sought.

While on patrol on 26 Mile Road, a vehicle decided to overtake and pass CO Todd Szyska's fully marked patrol unit in a "No Passing" zone less than 100 yards from an active train track. When CO Szyska initiated a traffic stop he found the vehicle was occupied by a female driver and a male passenger. The driver stated "I did not know you could not pass in a "No Passing" zone, and thought nothing of it. While running LEIN it was found the driver was no stranger to the court system due to the many prior charges of driving while license suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green, along with COs Lacelle Rabon and Mike Drexler, conducted a marine group patrol on the Detroit River. While checking a vessel, another boat went past and the COs yelled and motioned for the driver to slow down. The passenger looked in the officers' direction then leaned over to the driver and they continued on without changing speed. The COs contacted the occupants of the vessel at the dock and explained they were stopping them for violating the slow, no-wake law. The vessel driver first stated he was unfamiliar with the area, but as he was issued a ticket he stated "...the good guys just let us go this early in the season because the big boats aren't in the water yet". Enforcement action was taken.

During the same patrol, Sgt. Arthur Green, COs Lacelle Rabon and Mike Drexler stopped a vessel that carried four anglers. CO Drexler asked if they had any fish on board and the driver responded they had 36 walleye. The anglers stated they were fishing in Canada but only two of them had Canadian licenses. Then they stated they were fishing on both sides of the border. They had seven undersized walleye included in the overlimit, and they seemed to be unconcerned about the violation. Enforcement action was taken and reimbursement of \$1150 will be sought.

CO Mark Ennett conducted a ride along with a local high school student as part of a job shadow program. While checking one angler they discovered he was fishing without a valid fishing license. The angler claimed he did not understand English, and did not know about an expired license. CO Ennett learned he possessed a valid Concealed Pistol License. At that point, CO Ennett told the subject that anyone with a valid driver's

license and a CPL would be able to speak and read English well enough to know about fishing laws. After that the angler seemed to understand and the remainder of the encounter went smoothly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett checked anglers at Sterling State Park that led to a pair of violations. The first angler was fishing without a valid fishing license. She stated she was just keeping her brother company as he fished. The second angler was happy to show the variety of fish he had caught so far. Three of the fish were smallmouth bass. Two were roughly half the size of a legal fish. Another group member stated that the clerk who sold the licenses was at fault, because he did not tell them the rules before they went fishing. CO Ennett told them that they were responsible for their own actions, and they should have simply checked a DNR Fishing Guide. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett was checking anglers at the dam in Dundee. One couple who was not only fishing, but having a picnic downtown, decided that a fishing license was not necessary for people who either do not keep anything, or “wasn’t really trying”. They did not keep any fish, but were ticketed for fishing without valid fishing licenses.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint of anglers snagging and keeping undersized fish. Four anglers in different groups were found fishing without valid fishing licenses and a juvenile admitted to keeping a smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken and the bass was released.

CO Lacelle Rabon responded to a RAP complaint of people fishing without a license and taking sturgeon. CO Rabon found approximately 125 anglers fishing from the pier. He wrote two tickets for fishing without a license.

CO Mike Drexler responded to an anonymous complaint in Flat Rock where one subject caught and kept a smallmouth bass during the closed season. CO Drexler contacted the subject and found the smallmouth bass hidden in a closed bucket. The angler said he thought the season opened May 1<sup>st</sup>. The CO corrected the angler on the opening date while informing him that he would still be a few days early as it was only April 29<sup>th</sup>. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler and Sgt. Arthur Green were checking anglers and vessels in River Rouge when two anglers quickly tried to load their vessel and depart the launch after seeing the COs. CO Drexler contacted the anglers as they were attempting to drive away and asked how the fishing was. The driver of the vehicle said it was okay and continued to drive. The CO eventually stopped the vehicle and checked the fish bucket in the boat which contained a smallmouth bass. The driver admitted he was trying to get away because he knew he wasn’t supposed to keep it. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Arthur Green, COs Mike Drexler, Kris Kiel, Todd Szyska, Dan Walzak, Mark Ennett, and Ben Shively worked a group patrol of the Detroit River targeting anglers taking overlimits of white bass. The COs checked over 50 vessels and more than 150

anglers. They issued 14 tickets for taking overlimits of white bass, four marine safety tickets, eight tickets for fishing without a license, and one ticket for taking an undersized walleye. The COs seized 231 white bass, and one walleye. Total reimbursement to be sought is \$1165. One of the subjects ticketed for overlimit of white bass was ticketed less than a week prior by COs for a marine safety violation.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to Maceday Lake on a complaint of two anglers taking overlimits of small trout that were planted within the past week. CO Kieft contacted the two anglers who were fishing in a small aluminum boat. No fish were found in the boat; however, the operator was only able to provide one PFD for the two occupants. One of the subjects also did not have a current fishing license. While running file checks through LEIN, CO Kieft determined that one of the subjects was wanted on a child neglect warrant involving arrears of \$89,000 in child support. The subject was ticketed for the violations, arrested on his warrant, and turned over to local deputies to be lodged in the county jail.

CO Ben Shively responded to a RAP complaint of subjects keeping bass at Lake St. Clair Metropark. CO Shively arrived at the Park and watched two subjects fishing from the breakwall. CO Shively contacted the subjects at their bucket and located three largemouth bass mixed in with panfish. The CO ticketed one subject for fishing without a license and ticketed the second subject for taking bass during the catch and release season. The bass were seized and reimbursement will be sought.